

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An image processing device comprising:

a dividing part which divides compressed image drawing instructions into a plurality of sets of compressed image drawing instructions without decompressing them in such a manner that each set of image drawing instructions can be processed without referring to any other set of image drawing instructions;

a distributing part which distributes the plurality of sets of image drawing instructions to a plurality of image production processing parts; and

said plurality of image production processing parts each of which generates drawing data for image drawing processing from the plurality of sets of image drawing instructions.

2. (Original) The image processing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein image data corresponding to the given image drawing instructions to be processed here comprises image data obtained through data compression such that the resulting image data comprises a plurality of data blocks and each data block can be decompressed without referring to any other data block.

3. (Original) The image processing device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said dividing part divides given image data by a border between data blocks.

4. (Original) The image processing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein image data corresponding to the given image drawing instructions comprises image data obtained through data compression by a fixed length compressing method.

5. (Currently amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

a) dividing compressed image drawing instructions into a plurality of sets of compressed image drawing instructions without decompressing them in such a manner that each set of image drawing instructions can be processed without referring to any other set of image drawing instructions; and

b) generating drawing data for image drawing processing from the plurality of sets of image drawing instructions.

6. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein image data corresponding to the given image drawing instructions to be processed comprises image data obtained through data compression such that the resulting image data comprises a plurality of data blocks and each data block can be decompressed without referring to any other data block.

7. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said step b) divides the given image data by a border between data blocks.

8. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein image data corresponding to the given image drawing instructions comprises image data obtained through data compression by a fixed length compressing method.

9. (Currently amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a dividing part which divides compressed image drawing instructions into a plurality of sets of compressed image drawing instructions without decompressing

them in such a manner that each set of image drawing instructions can be processed without referring to any other set of image drawing instructions;

a distributing part which distributes the plurality of sets of image drawing instructions to a plurality of image production processing parts;

said plurality of image production processing parts each of which generates drawing data for image drawing processing from a set of image drawing instructions; and

a drawing processing part which performs drawing processing according to the drawing data given by said plurality of image production processing parts, and thus forms an image.